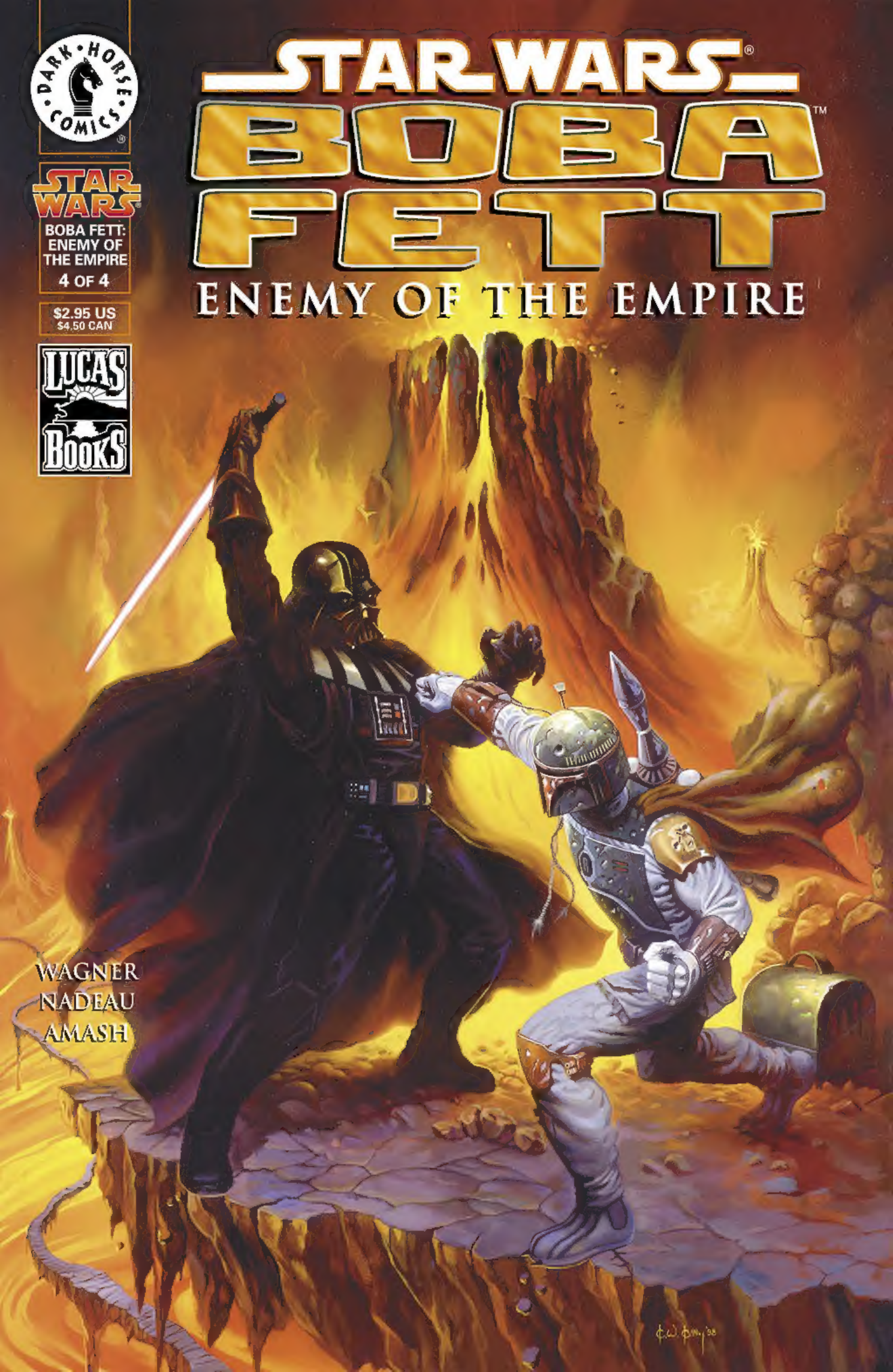
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PART FOUR
OF FOUR

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STAR WARS® TIMELINE

TALES OF THE JEDI

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- 4,000 BSW4 — KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC
- 3,998 BSW4 — THE FREEDON NADD UPRISING
- 3,997 BSW4 — DARK LORDS OF THE SITH
- 3,996 BSW4 — THE SITH WAR
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- 0-10 BSW4 — *CLASSIC STAR WARS: HAN SOLO AT STARS' END*
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- SW4 — **STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE (EPISODE IV)**
- 0+ ASW4 — *CLASSIC STAR WARS: THE EARLY ADVENTURES*
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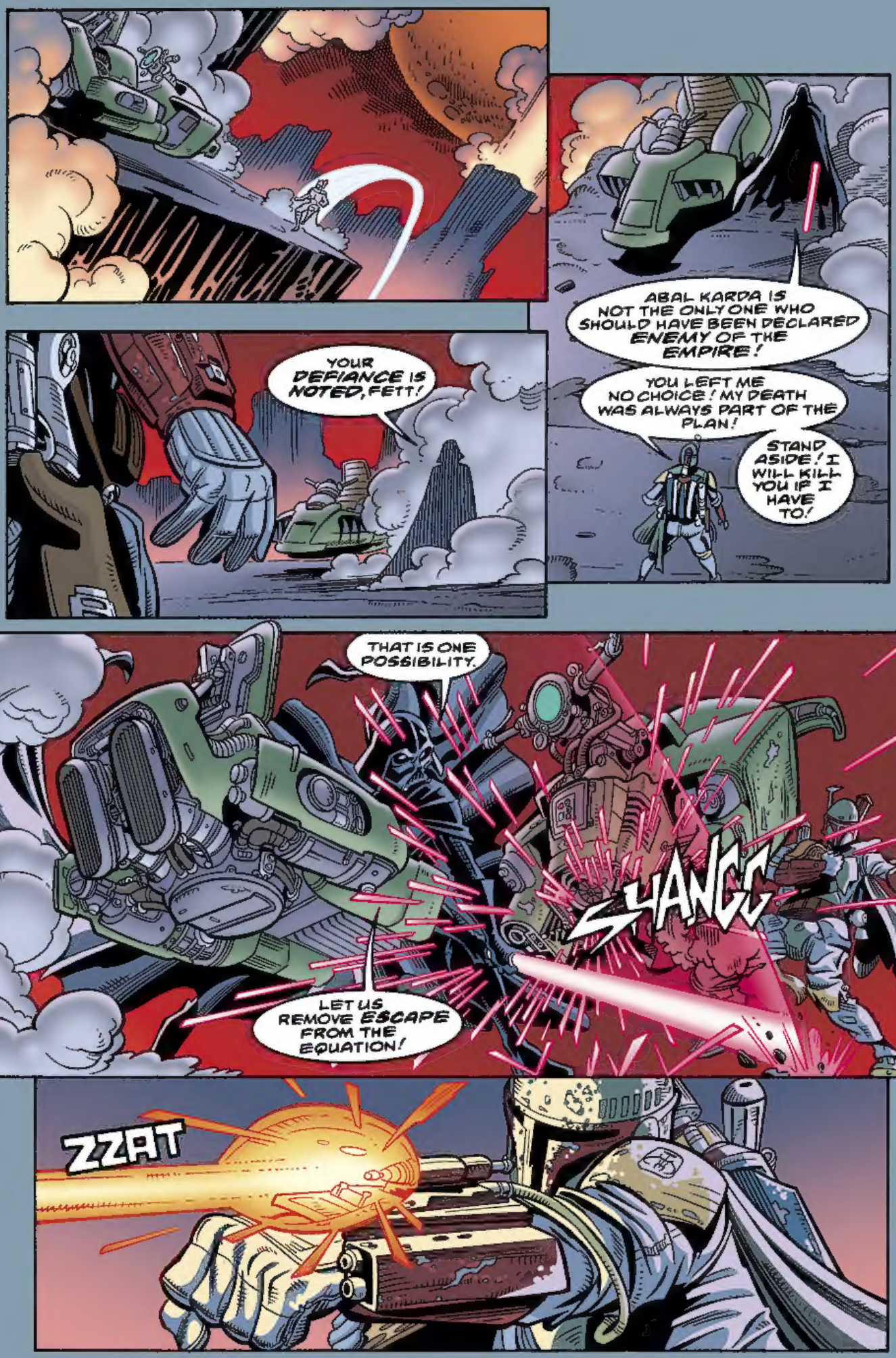
- 10+ ASW4 — BOBA FETT: DEATH, LIES, AND TREACHERY
- 11 ASW4 — EMPIRE'S END
- 11+ ASW4 — CRIMSON EMPIRE
- 13 ASW4 — JEDI ACADEMY

FETT! I ASSUME YOU HAVE DEALT WITH THE TRAITOR ABAL KARDA!
BOBA FETT?
YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT IS MINE! BRING IT AND RECEIVE YOUR REWARD!
TH-TH-THERE!
DARTH VADER AND BOBA FETT! THE PORTENTS WERE TRUE -- WE ARE SURELY DOOMED!
OH, WOE!

HIS REWARD, HE KNOWS, WILL BE DEATH--
BZANNG
BZANNG
AHHH!
M-MERCY!
I SEE IT NOW! THE DARK LORD OF THE SITH... HE IS THE SHADOW ON MY TOMORROWS! HE WILL DECIDE MY FATE!
BUT BOBA FETT WON'T GIVE ME UP--NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT! I AM WORTH TOO MUCH--I, WHO CAN SEE THE FUTURE!
GREED WAS ABAL KARDA'S DOWN-FALL--WILL IT BE YOURS? SHALL I TELL YOU WHETHER YOU LIVE OR DIE?

I WILL MAKE MY OWN FUTURE, SELESTRINE!
KA-DINK
boink
boink
boink
KLIK!

VAROOOOM
HE DOES NOT FEAR THE DARK LORD--
-- BUT ONLY A FOOL SEEKS CLOSE COMBAT WITH DARTH VADER.
MORE SMOKE THAN FLAME-- A RUSE!


ABAL KARDA IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN DECLARED ENEMY OF THE EMPIRE!
YOU LEFT ME NO CHOICE! MY DEATH WAS ALWAYS PART OF THE PLAN!
STAND ASIDE! I WILL KILL YOU IF I HAVE TO!
YOUR DEFIANCE IS NOTED, FETT!
THAT IS ONE POSSIBILITY.
SHANG
LET US REMOVE ESCAPE FROM THE EQUATION!
ZZAT

SHANG
THOOM
FTOOM
FAROOOM
I HOPED YOU WOULD GIVE ME A GOOD CONTEST, BOUNTY HUNTER. YOU MUST TRY HARDER.

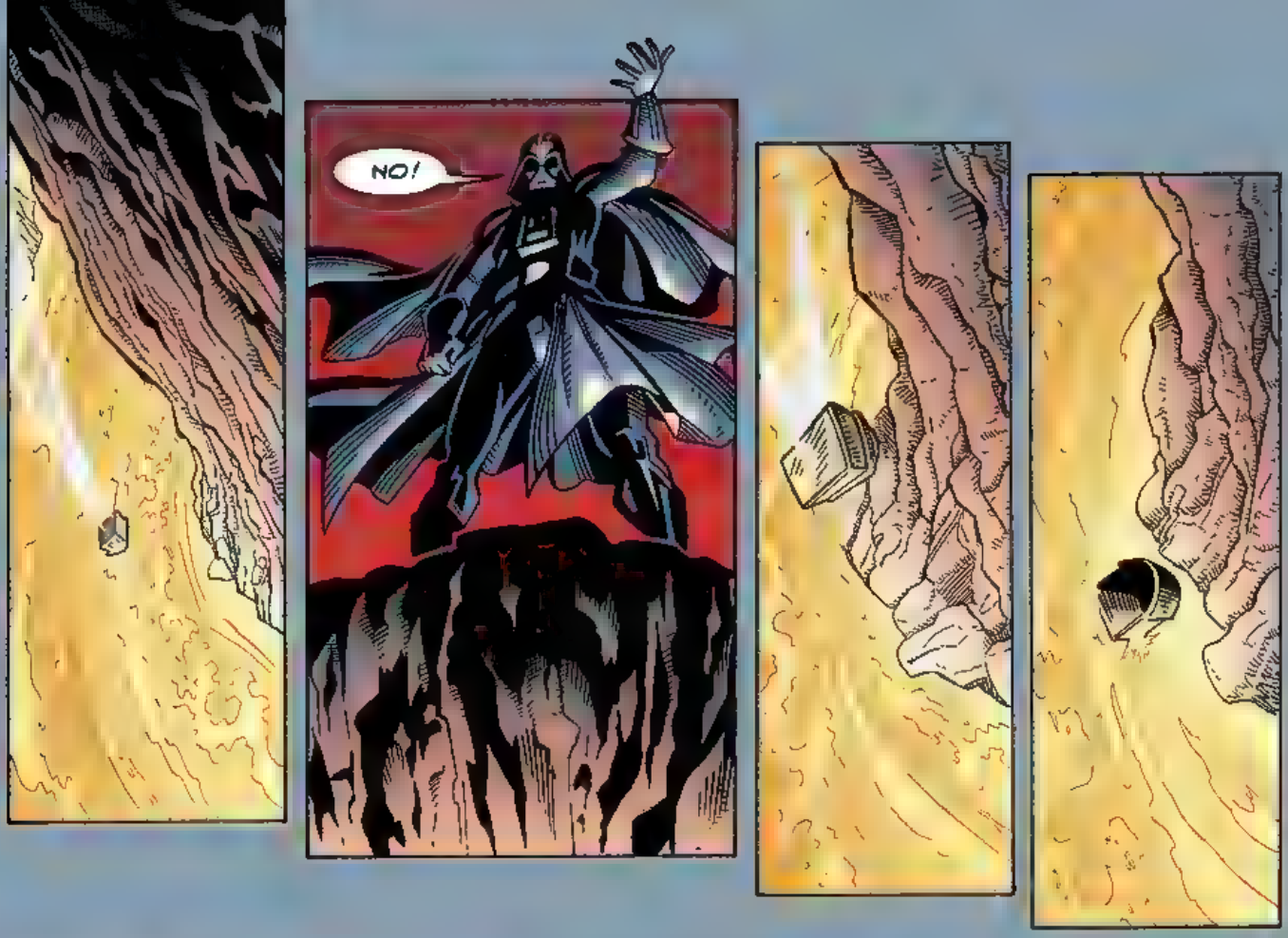
FETT'S THROWING EVERYTHING AT HIM-- NOTHING'S GETTING THROUGH!
THE BOUNTY HUNTER'S BACKING OFF! VADER'S MOVING IN FOR THE KILL!
OH, MERCY, WE'RE NEXT!
ZZANNGG
UHHH!
FOOSSH
WE WOULD NOT WISH THE PRIZE TO BE LOST IN OUR SQUABBLE, FETT. PUT THE CASKET DOWN.

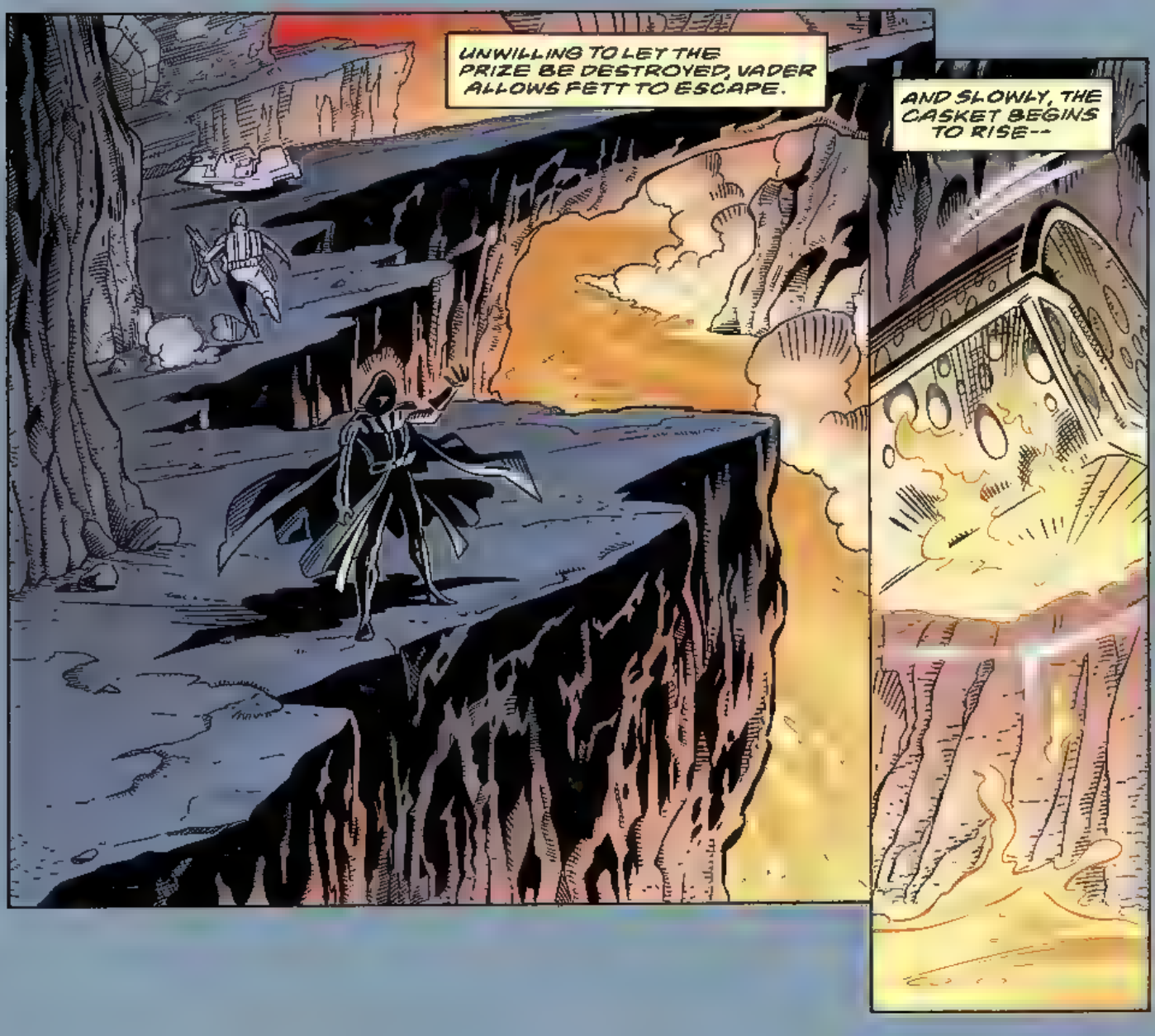
PUT IT DOWN.
Y-YOU'RE TWISTING MY THOUGHTS--!
IT WON'T WORK! IT'S MINE!
HAVE A CARE--!
K-R-K
NO!
THE FOOL!

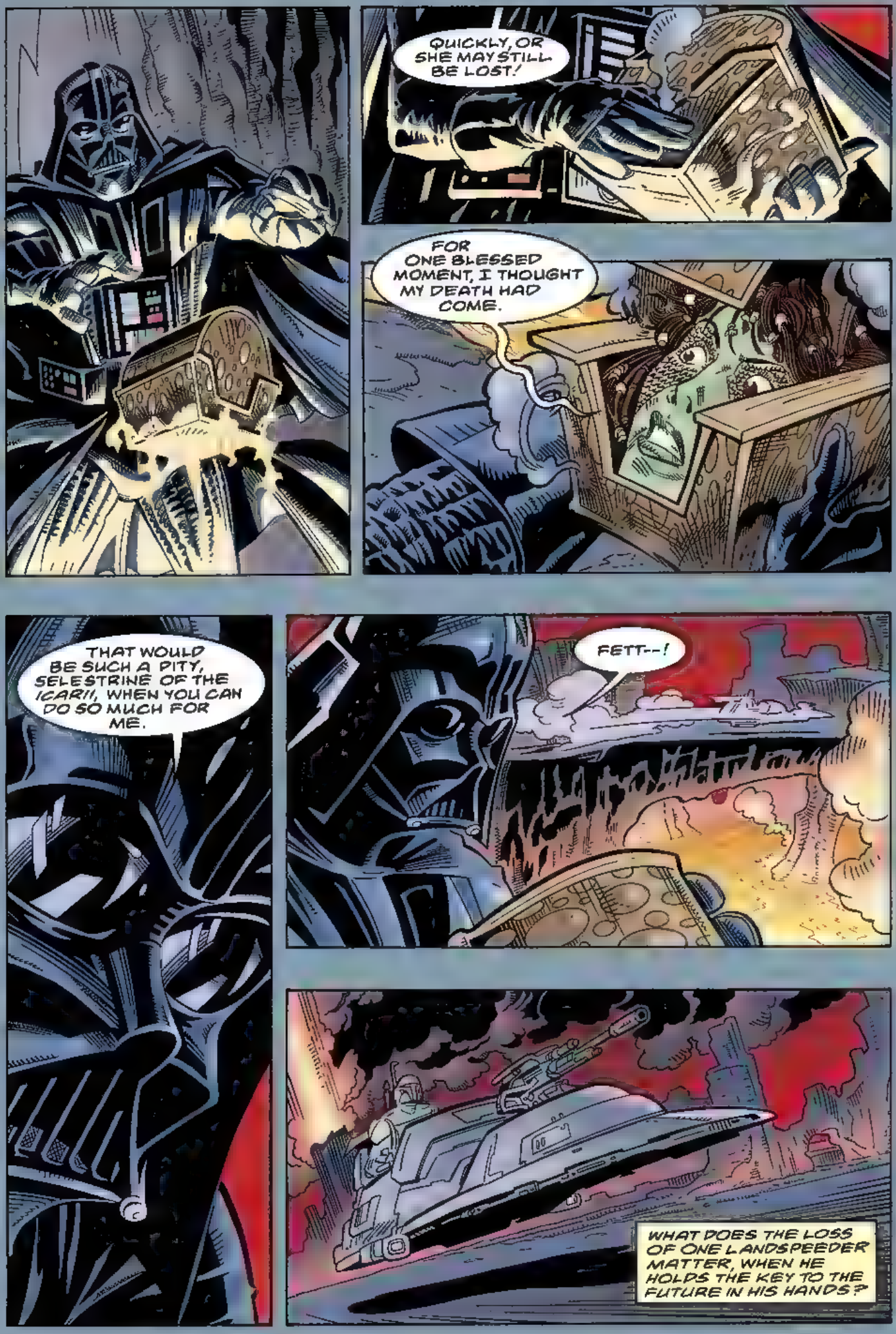
BLANG
BLANG

I WIN.
YOU...DID WELL, FETT. FEW HAVE EVER BETTERED ME. YOU POSSESS MORE GUILE THAN I GAVE YOU CREDIT FOR.
THE MISTAKE WAS TO ALLOW TIME FOR MY WITS TO CLEAR--
WHIP!
UNHHHH!

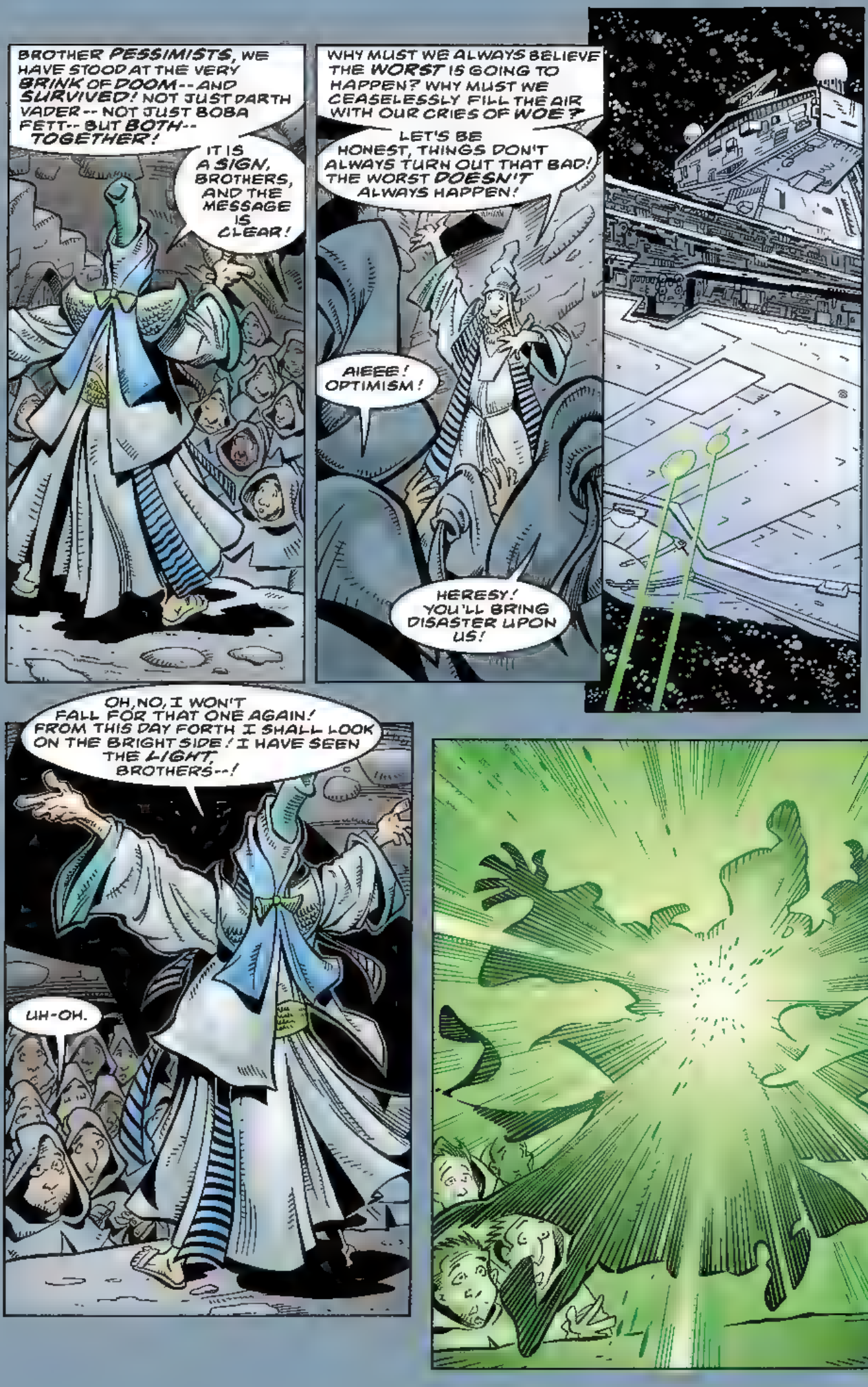
HE TRIES TO BRING HIS ARMS TO BEAR, BUT AN UNSEEN POWER RESISTS HIM!
IT COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN A FAIR CONTEST IN THE END, I WIELD THE.. MORE POTENT WEAPONS.
STILL, YOU HAVE EARNED MY RESPECT. I WILL MAKE YOUR END SWIFT--YOU DESERVE THAT, AT LEAST.
UNNH!
HE HAS FELT THE FORCE BEFORE, BUT NEVER LIKE THIS -- ITS GRIP AS STRONG AS STEEL, TIGHTENING AROUND HIM, SQUEEZING THE LIFE FROM HIM ..
MY . MY LORD, WE SHOULD NOT BE AT ODDS. IT IS THE... FORTUNE-TELLER WHO MAKES US ENEMIES...
LET US . REMOVE THE CAUSE OF OUR DISPUTE!
WHAP
MADNESS--!
SMAKK

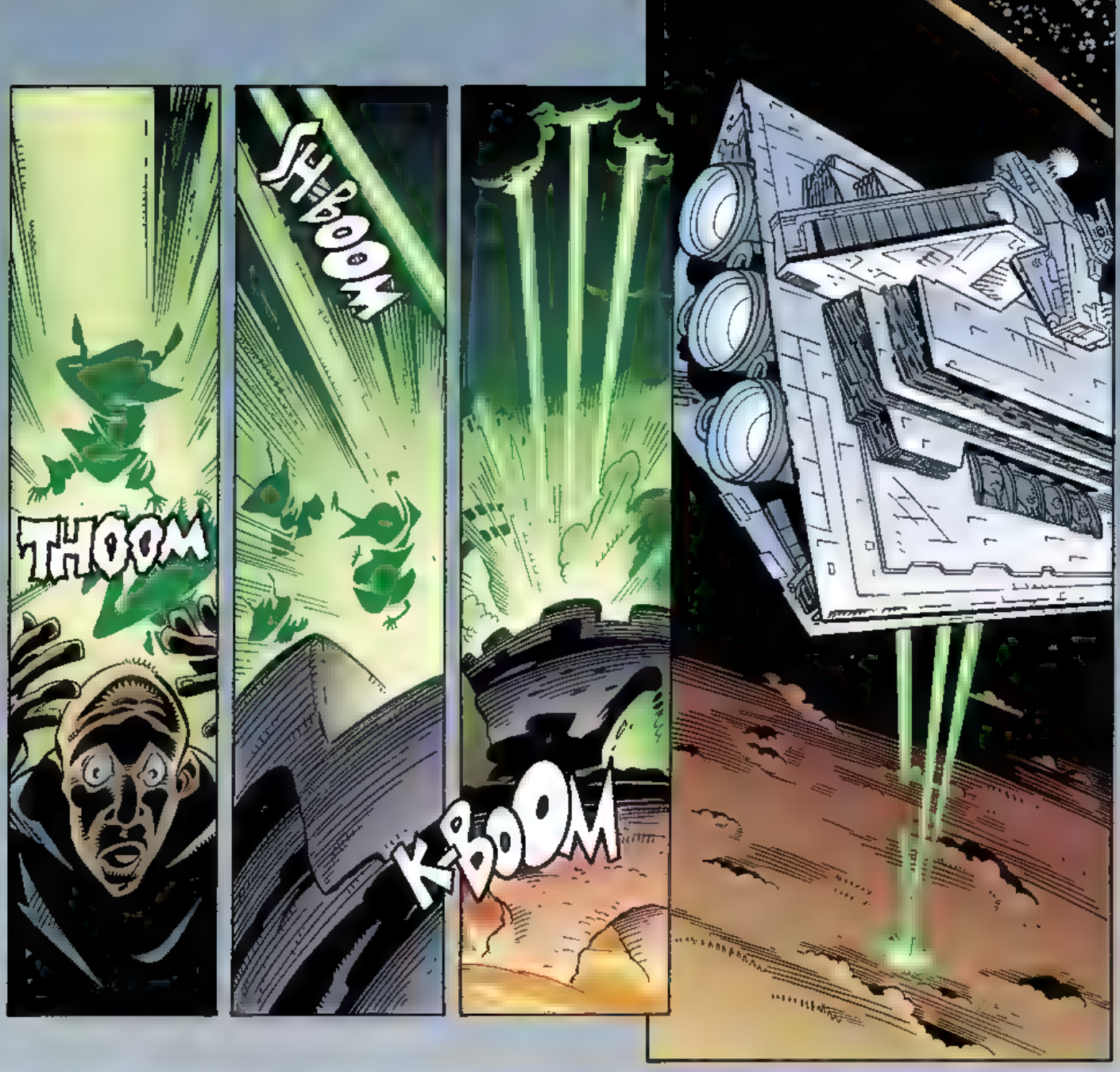

NO!

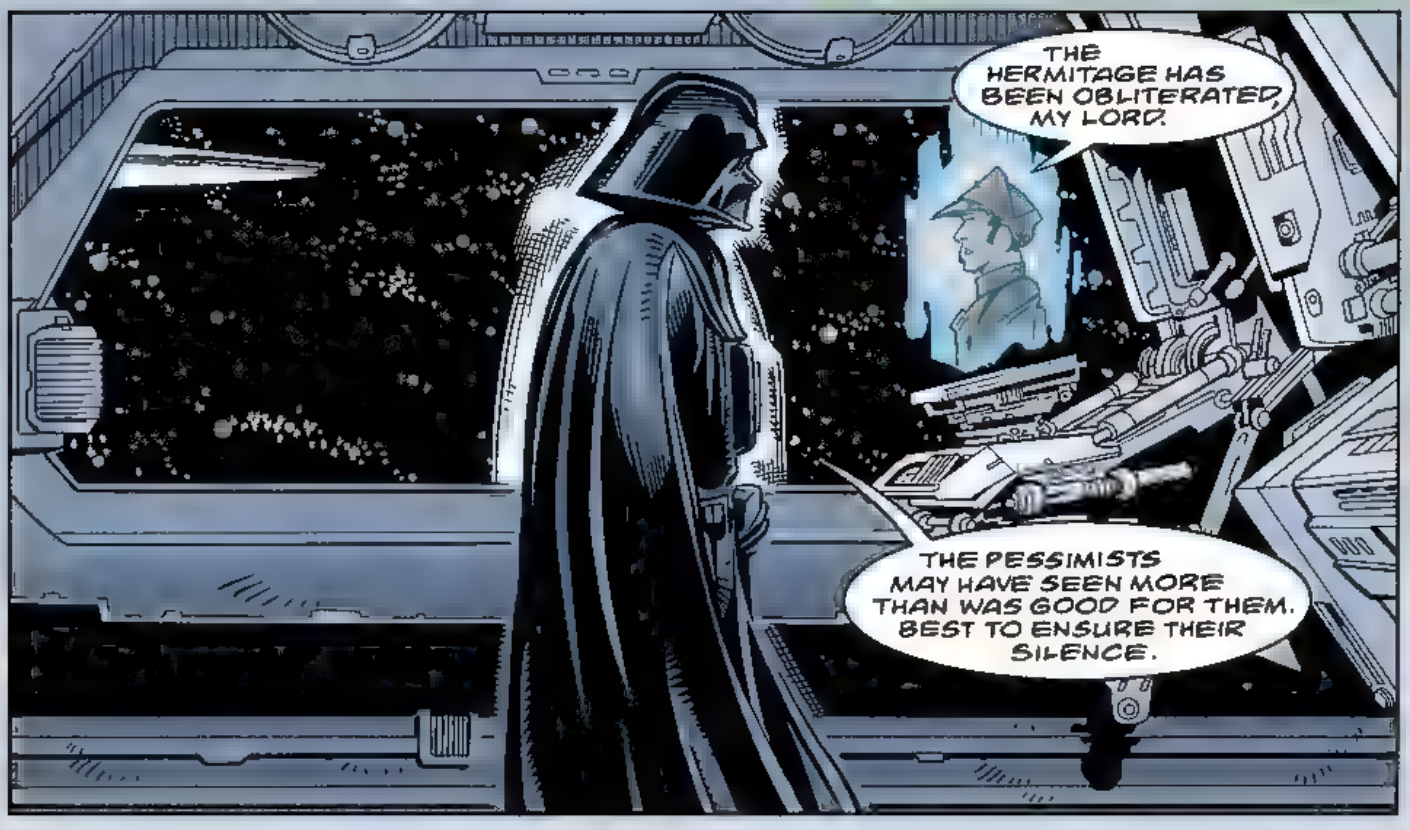

UNWILLING TO LET THE PRIZE BE DESTROYED, VADER ALLOWS FETT TO ESCAPE.
AND SLOWLY, THE CASKET BEGINS TO RISE--

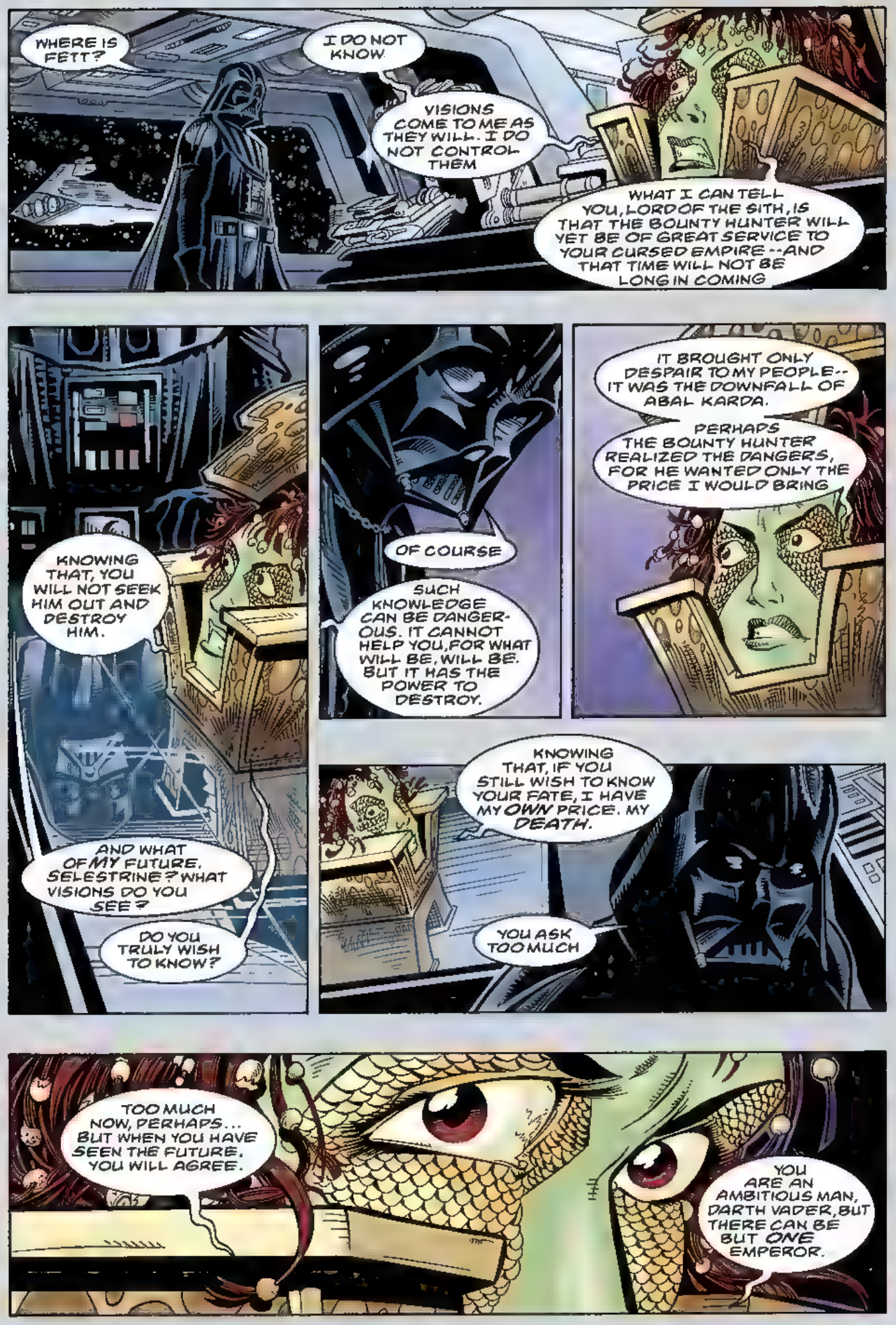

QUICKLY, OR SHE MAY STILL BE LOST!
FOR ONE BLESSED MOMENT, I THOUGHT MY DEATH HAD COME.
THAT WOULD BE SUCH A PITY, SELESTRINE OF THE ICARII, WHEN YOU CAN DO SO MUCH FOR ME.
FETT--!
WHAT DOES THE LOSS OF ONE LANDSPEEDER MATTER, WHEN HE HOLDS THE KEY TO THE FUTURE IN HIS HANDS?

YOUR LANDSPEEDER PASSED US BY SOME TIME AGO, MY LORD, WITH BOBA FETT ABOARD. WE WERE NATURALLY CONCERNED.
HE AND I HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS ..
WE TRIED TO STOP HIM--
I SEE
FETT'S SHIP HAS LEFT THE PLANET AND ENTERED HYPER-SPACE, DESTINATION UNKNOWN.
HE'S GONE! G-GLORY BE!
SIX BROTHERS DEAD, HIGH HERMIT, SEVERAL INJURED!
OH, WOE!
WOE? WOE?
THE TWO MOST DANGEROUS KILLERS IN THE GALAXY FIGHT A PITCHED BATTLE IN OUR MIDST, AND WE ONLY LOSE SIX?
DON'T GIVE ME WOE, BROTHER--WE'VE HAD A RESULT!
ASSEMBLE ALL THE PESSIMISTS! I HAVE GLAD TIDINGS TO DELIVER!


BROTHER PESSIMISTS, WE HAVE STOOD AT THE VERY BRINK OF DOOM -- AND SURVIVED! NOT JUST DARTH VADER -- NOT JUST BOBA FETT -- BUT BOTH -- TOGETHER!
IT IS A SIGN, BROTHERS, AND THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR!
WHY MUST WE ALWAYS BELIEVE THE WORST IS GOING TO HAPPEN? WHY MUST WE CEASELESSLY FILL THE AIR WITH OUR CRIES OF WOE?
LET'S BE HONEST, THINGS DON'T ALWAYS TURN OUT THAT BAD! THE WORST DOESN'T ALWAYS HAPPEN!
AIEEE! OPTIMISM!
HERESY! YOU'LL BRING DISASTER UPON US!
OH, NO, I WON'T FALL FOR THAT ONE AGAIN! FROM THIS DAY FORTH I SHALL LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE! I HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT, BROTHERS--!
UH-OH.

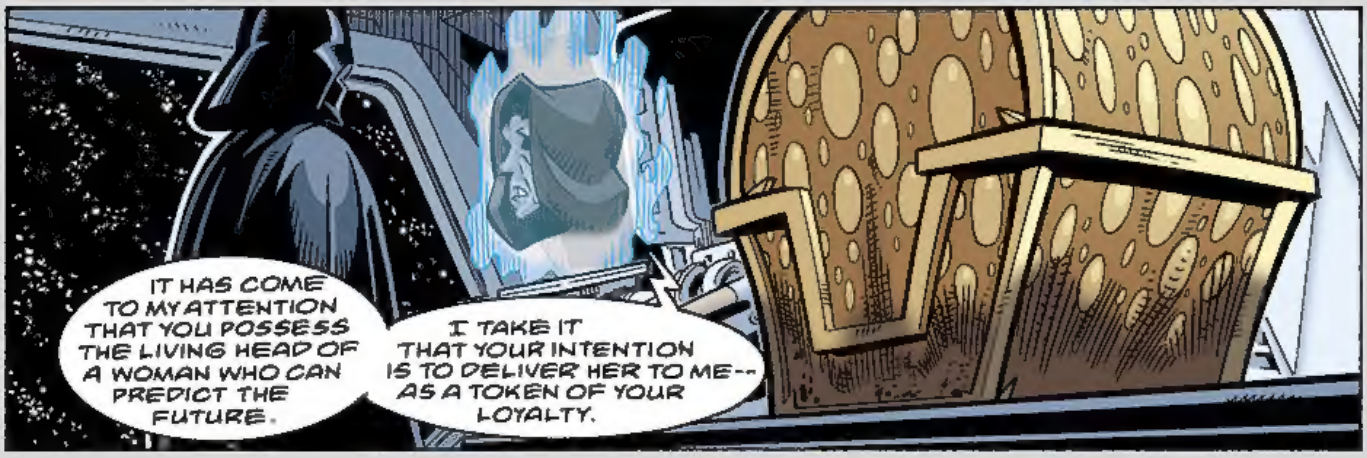

THOOM
SH-BOOM
K-BOOM


THE HERMITAGE HAS BEEN OBLITERATED, MY LORD.
THE PESSIMISTS MAY HAVE SEEN MORE THAN WAS GOOD FOR THEM. BEST TO ENSURE THEIR SILENCE.

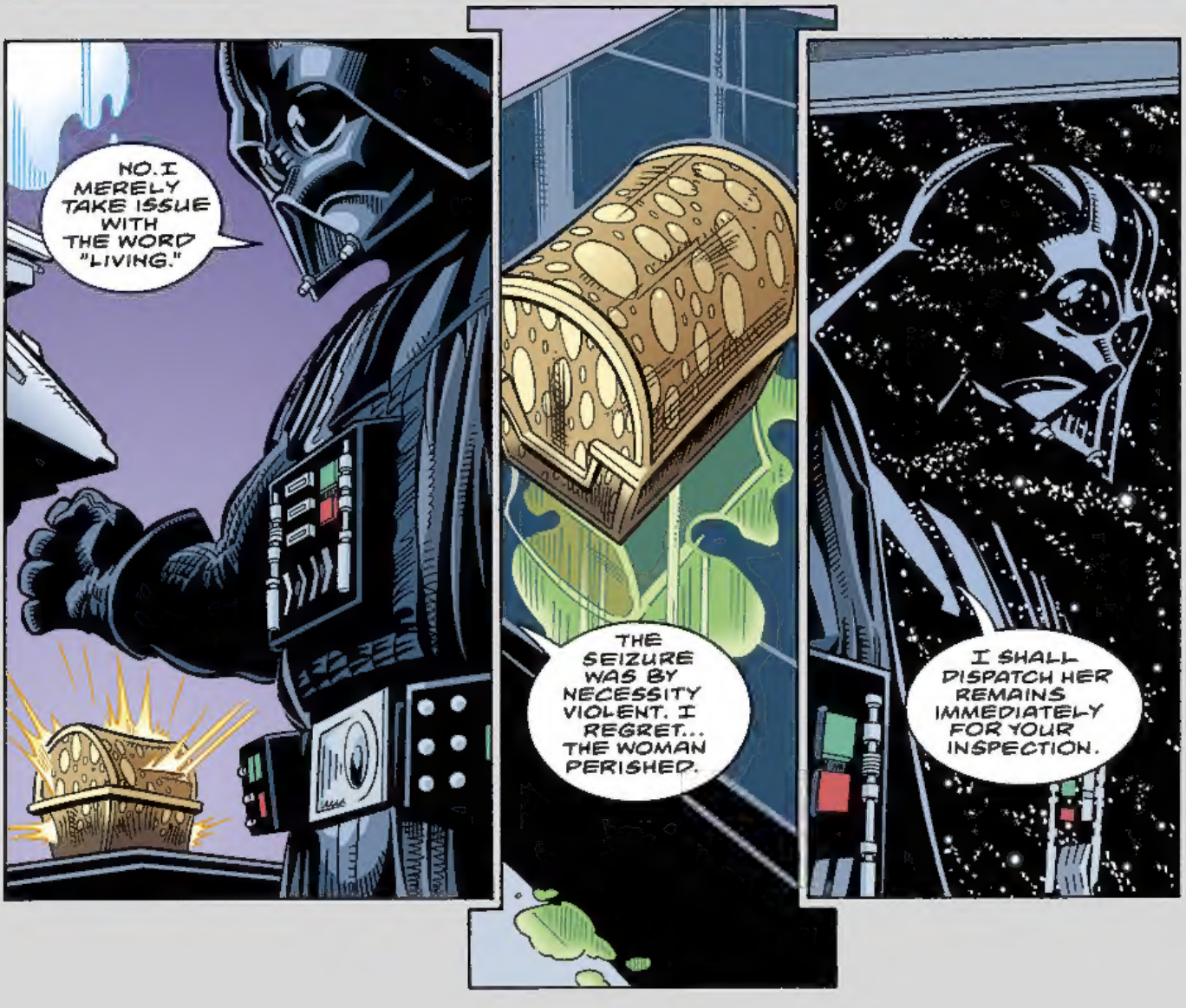

WHERE IS FETT?
I DO NOT KNOW.
VISIONS COME TO ME AS THEY WILL. I DO NOT CONTROL THEM
WHAT I CAN TELL YOU, LORD OF THE SITH, IS THAT THE BOUNTY HUNTER WILL YET BE OF GREAT SERVICE TO YOUR CURSED EMPIRE --AND THAT TIME WILL NOT BE LONG IN COMING
KNOWING THAT, YOU WILL NOT SEEK HIM OUT AND DESTROY HIM.
AND WHAT OF MY FUTURE, SELESTRINE? WHAT VISIONS DO YOU SEE?
DO YOU TRULY WISH TO KNOW?
OF COURSE
SUCH KNOWLEDGE CAN BE DANGEROUS. IT CANNOT HELP YOU, FOR WHAT WILL BE, WILL BE. BUT IT HAS THE POWER TO DESTROY.
IT BROUGHT ONLY DESPAIR TO MY PEOPLE-- IT WAS THE DOWNFALL OF ABAL KARDA.
PERHAPS THE BOUNTY HUNTER REALIZED THE DANGERS, FOR HE WANTED ONLY THE PRICE I WOULD BRING
KNOWING THAT, IF YOU STILL WISH TO KNOW YOUR FATE, I HAVE MY OWN PRICE. MY DEATH.
YOU ASK TOO MUCH
TOO MUCH NOW, PERHAPS... BUT WHEN YOU HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE, YOU WILL AGREE.
YOU ARE AN AMBITIOUS MAN, DARTH VADER, BUT THERE CAN BE BUT ONE EMPEROR.

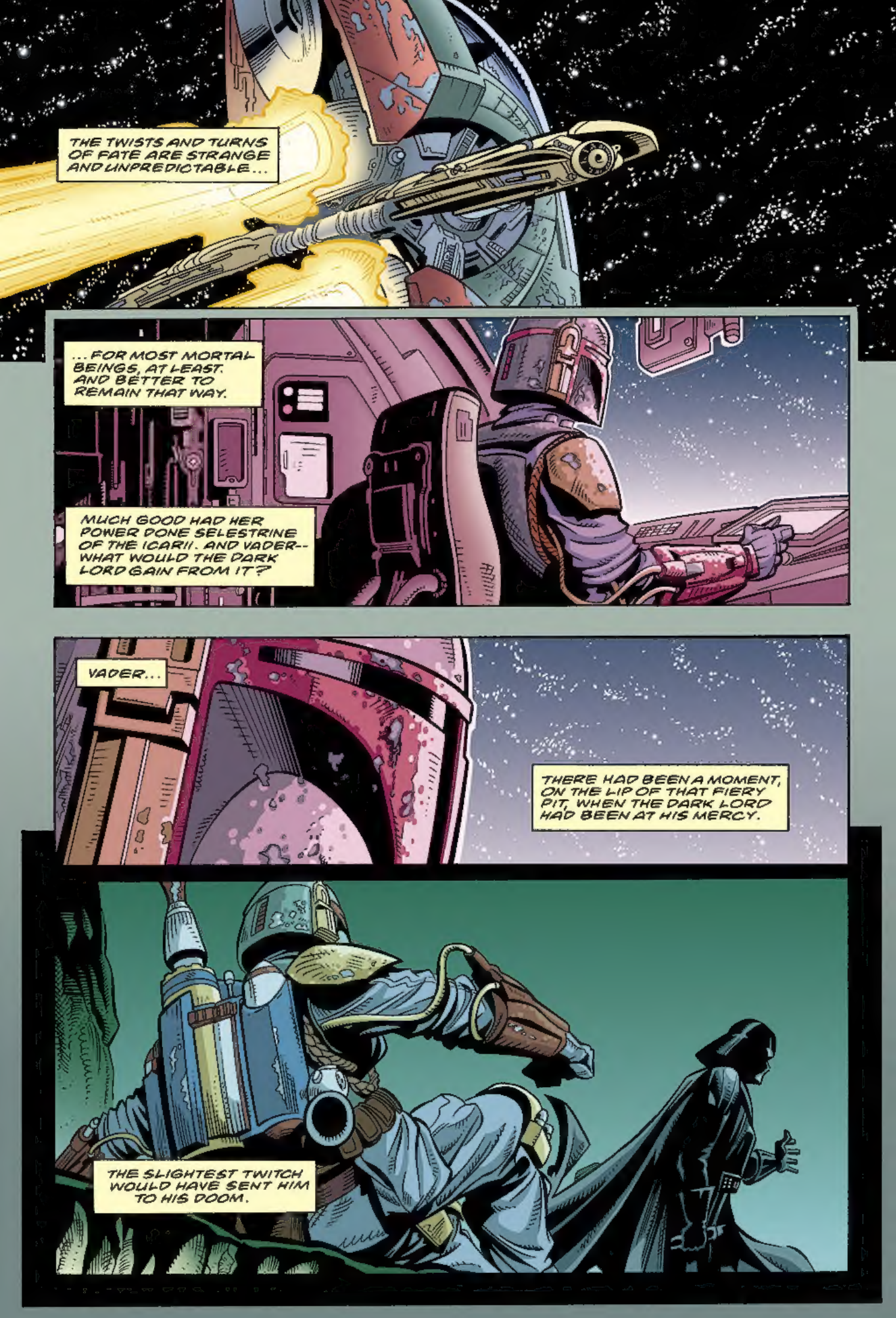
WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE IN CHAINS, EMPEROR? I HAVE COMMITTED NO CRIME AGAINST YOU!
NO, BUT IT IS IN YOUR HEART-- AND THAT IS SUFFICIENT
URHRHH!
YOU ARE BECOMING TOO POWERFUL FOR MY COMFORT IT IS BEST THAT YOU BE REMOVED NOW.
SO IT SHALL COME TO NAUGHT! PALPATINE'S MASTERY OF THE DARK SIDE WILL ALWAYS BE GREATER!
THAT IS ONE FUTURE-- LET ME SHOW YOU ANOTHER.
YOUR POWER IS WANING, PALPATINE. YOUR DAY IS OVER.
THIS IS TREACHERY, VADER!
ONLY UNTIL I HAVE REPLACED YOU, EMPEROR-- THEN IT BECOMES AN ACT OF SUCCESSION!

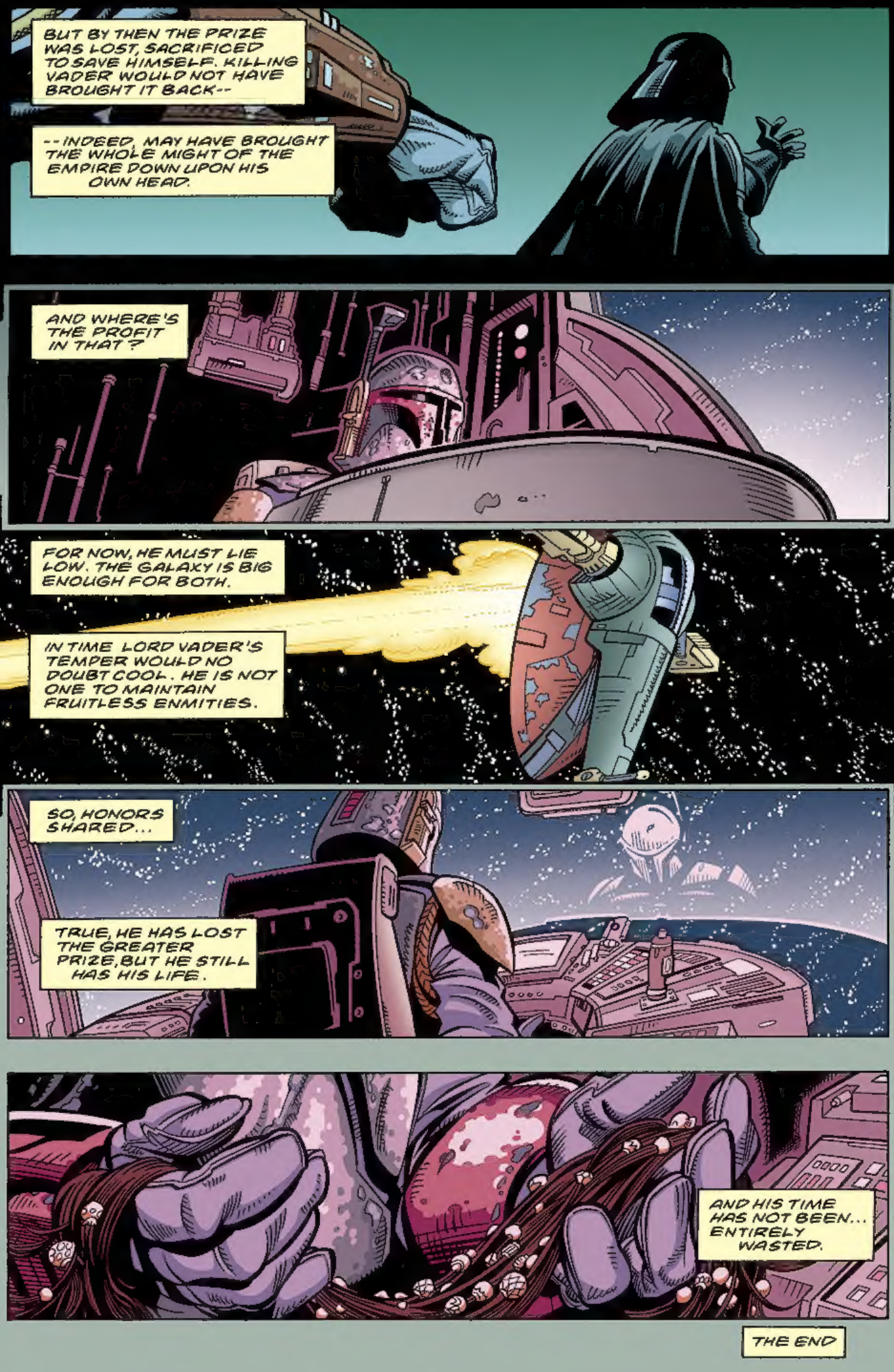
THE EMPEROR HAS MET WITH AN ACCIDENT. BEFORE HE DIED, HE NAMED ME TO SUCCEED HIM.
KNEEL! KNEEL BEFORE THE EMPEROR!
A FUTURE MORE TO YOUR LIKING?
IF IT IS TRUE.
AND IF IT IS -- WHAT OF ALL THAT SHALL PASS BETWEEN NOW AND THEN? WHAT PURPOSE TO YOUR EXISTENCE WHEN THE FUTURE IS PREORDAINED?
WHAT WILL BE, WILL BE. YOU CANNOT CHANGE IT. YET THE JOY OF LIFE IS IN ACHIEVING, IN OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO YOUR DESIRES.
TO HAVE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF SUCCESS DESTROYS ALL THAT COMES BETWEEN. IT IS A CURSE!
YES... I SEE THE PERILS.
YET I WOULD STILL KNOW, WHICH OF THESE FUTURES IS THE TRUE ONE?
PERHAPS NEITHER.
I HAVE SPARED YOU SO FAR, LORD VADER, IN EXPECTATION OF YOUR GRATITUDE. LET ME TELL YOU NOW OF A FUTURE THAT WILL BE... SHORTLY, THE EMPEROR WILL APPEAR TO YOU. HE WILL DEMAND A TOKEN OF YOUR LOYALTY--ONE THAT YOU WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO GIVE. I AM THAT TOKEN.
THE EMPEROR, MY LORD!
bLee
HE HAS FOUND OUT? HOW--?
HE HAS EYES EVERYWHERE, AS YOU WELL KNOW.
TO OWN ME IS FRAUGHT WITH DANGER -- YET TO PERMIT MY POWER TO PASS TO ANOTHER IS THE GREATER RISK. BUT HOW CAN YOU REFUSE...?


IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT YOU POSSESS THE LIVING HEAD OF A WOMAN WHO CAN PREDICT THE FUTURE.
I TAKE IT THAT YOUR INTENTION IS TO DELIVER HER TO ME-- AS A TOKEN OF YOUR LOYALTY.

YOU HAVE BEEN MISINFORMED, EMPEROR.
YOU DENY YOU HAVE HER?


NO. I MERELY TAKE ISSUE WITH THE WORD "LIVING."
THE SEIZURE WAS BY NECESSITY VIOLENT. I REGRET... THE WOMAN PERISHED.
I SHALL DISPATCH HER REMAINS IMMEDIATELY FOR YOUR INSPECTION.


THE TWISTS AND TURNS OF FATE ARE STRANGE AND UNPREDICTABLE...
...FOR MOST MORTAL BEINGS, AT LEAST. AND BETTER TO REMAIN THAT WAY.
MUCH GOOD HAD HER POWER DONE SELESTRINE OF THE ICARII. AND VADER--WHAT WOULD THE DARK LORD GAIN FROM IT?
VADER...
THERE HAD BEEN A MOMENT, ON THE LIP OF THAT FIERY PIT, WHEN THE DARK LORD HAD BEEN AT HIS MERCY.
THE SLIGHTEST TWITCH WOULD HAVE SENT HIM TO HIS DOOM.


BUT BY THEN THE PRIZE WAS LOST, SACRIFICED TO SAVE HIMSELF. KILLING VADER WOULD NOT HAVE BROUGHT IT BACK--
-- INDEED, MAY HAVE BROUGHT THE WHOLE MIGHT OF THE EMPIRE DOWN UPON HIS OWN HEAD.
AND WHERE'S THE PROFIT IN THAT?
FOR NOW, HE MUST LIE LOW. THE GALAXY IS BIG ENOUGH FOR BOTH.
IN TIME LORD VADER'S TEMPER WOULD NO DOUBT COOL. HE IS NOT ONE TO MAINTAIN FRUITLESS ENMITIES.
SO, HONORS SHARED...
TRUE, HE HAS LOST THE GREATER PRIZE, BUT HE STILL HAS HIS LIFE.
AND HIS TIME HAS NOT BEEN... ENTIRELY WASTED.
THE END